

HARDWARE OF A CENTURY AGO

"Georgie" Dean handled hammers and nails from England, sugar basins and cream pots, files, rasps and sad irons, clock balls and bed caps, a great variety of pen knives, smelling bottles, ivory tooth picks and other wares little known in the practical Hardware business of to-day. Dean was a successful Hardware dealer in his day, but his day was 100 years ago. He ran the leading Hardware store in Salem, Mass., then a flourishing shipping port, bigger than Boston in foreign trade, and better known in Bengal and Calcutta than New York.

Dean got practically all his Hardware in England. American factories were then few. Fleet sailing vessels from England docked at the pier, which ran from his store down to the harbor, and he unloaded huge cases from the vessel and pushed them on trucks up to the basement of his store. When he shipped a big order to Boston, or even more remote points, he freighted it on a coasting schooner; railroads were not dreamed of in "Georgie" Dean's day, and a location on a good wharf was as much to be desired than is a site close by the freight yard and railroad station today.

Dean was a successful Hardwareman, as before stated, but he failed to measure progress, and foresee the changes in fashion in Hardware that the future held in store. Otherwise, he would not have stocked up so heavily on such strange articles as clout nails, copper chafing dishes, frying pans, white chapel needles, knee buckles, sugar tongs and other queer goods which "Jack" Daland shoveled out into a tip cart the other day, and had taken off to the foundry to be melted down for old metal, and for cash in his own coffers. Daland runs "Georgie" Dean's store today, or at least a store on the same site on which Dean did business, but if the famous merchant of a century ago happened to drop into his old stand and got a glimpse at safety razors, safety revolvers, thermometers, electric bells and novelties, washing machines and other articles of which he never dreamed he would undoubtedly rejoice that his shoe pegs, his shoe buckles, his Circassian wash balls and his horn combs and other articles of Hardware of a century ago had gone up in smoke.

In a spirit of progress, "Georgie" Dean one day had printed a handbill flyer, announcing his stock, a common form of advertising of a century ago, and an original copy is still preserved in the store today. This copy was recently framed by Mr. Daland, and exhibited to the general public, and for the benefit of the Hardware trade in general he has turned over a copy to HARDWARE.

The bill, which catalogues many an article which will make a twentieth-century dealer smile, is as follows:

A LARGE ASSORTMENT

For Sale By

George Dean

At his Store in Essex-Street, Salem,
At very low prices for Cash, or short approved credit; among
which are the following—viz:—

Brads, Clout and Pump Nails;
Hammers;
Steelyards; Brick Trowels;
Files, Rasps, Sad Irons;
Cart Boxes, Shovels and Spades;
Frying Pans, Pots and Kettles; Iron Dogs;
Copper and Iron Chafing Dishes;
Copper and Brass Scales;
Socket and Cast-steel Firmer's Chisels;
Best Steel Plate Hand Saws;
Plane Irons: H. HL. Butt, Chest;
Table, Trunk, Desk, Book Case, and Prospect Hinges;
Thumb Latches, Rat and Mouse Traps;
Mincing Knives;
Stirrup Irons, and Snaffles; Tin'd and
Plated Common and Portsmouth Pelhams;
Inlets, and Flat sets, Cock Eyes,
Breast Plate and Tug Buckles.
Octagon Harness Buckles;
Brass Nails; Twig and Chaise Whips;
Whip Thongs, Saddlers' Pincers and Awls;
A Large Assortment of Screws;
Iron and Steel Knitting Pins;
White Chapel Needles; Darning and Sail do.;

Fish Hooks; Iron and Britannia Table and Tea Spoons;
A great variety of Pen Knives;
Couteaux, Scissors, Razors, Knives and Forks;
Razor Cases, Wilson's Shoe Knives;
Shoe Nippers and Pincers, Sand Stones;
Compasses and Squares;
Desk, Bookcase, Chest, Till, Prospect, Closet, Cupboard, Trunk, Stock, Ring and Knob Locks.
Single and Double Padlocks, Common Brass and Secret Portmanteau do.;
Iron and Brass and high Candle Sticks;
Mahogany and Common Bellows;
Shovels and Tongs, Brass Cocks, with and without keys;
Pewter Dishes, Plates, Basons, and Porringers;
Britannia and Pewter Tea-Pots;
Sugar Basons, Cream Pots, etc., etc.;
Small and Spike Gimblets;
Bow Latches; Flat and round Bolts;
Iron and Box Coffee Mills;
Brass Knobs and Bolts; Brass and China Cloak Pins;
Escutcheons; Tea Tray Handles;
Clock Balls; Table Catches; Bed Caps;
Quadrants and Catches;
Portable Desk Furniture;
Assortment Commodes and Rose Handles;
Sand Paper; Marking Irons, Tooth and Comb Brushes;
Ivory, Horn and Tortoise Shell Combs;
Pewter and Japan'd Ink Stands; Sealing Wax, Paper;
Quills and Ink Powder; Pocket Dials;
Common and Double Spectacles; Oval Glass, do.;
Brass, Steel and Plated Thimbles; Coat and Vest Moulds;
Plated Shoe and Knee Buckles; neat Steel Knee do.;
Brass Plated Sugar Tongs; Yellow and Plated Sleeve Links;
Common and Plated Clasps; Enamel'd Snuff Boxes with Mottoes; Japan'd Brass and Leather do.;
An elegant assortment of Steel Snuffers and Snuffer Trays;
Corn Screws, Morocco Purses, Pocket Books;
Box Rules; Bed Castors; Shot Bags and Powder Flasks;
Tweasers, Curling Tongs; Japan'd Tobacco Boxes;
Nutmeg Graters;
A large assortment of handsome Tea Trays, Waiters' Canisters; Caddies, Fruit Baskets, Knife Trays, etc.
Quart and Pint Jacks; Money Scales and Weights;
A Great Variety of Patent Brass and
Japan'd Lamps and Lanterns;
Shaving Boxes and Brushes;
Lead Pencils, Slate do.; 3 1-2, 4, 4 1-2, and pound Pins; Salt
Spoons; Smelling Bottles; in plain and pierced Cases;
Cut do.; and Flat Silk Winders; Tambour Cases;
A large assortment of Watch Chains, Seals and Keys;
Court Plaster; Britannia Cream Pots;
Holland Brushes; Horse and Cloth do.;
Circassian Wash Ball;
Looking Glasses, etc., etc., etc.

Also,

A few Traveling Desks; and an assortment of Boston Glass,
as cheap as at the Manufactory.